

## REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims to clarify the invention. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are amended herein to recite an information storage and retrieval system comprising a device adapter comprising a first communication link control card. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 5 at Lines 2-3, and in FIG. 2 at elements 210 (device adapter) and 240 (communication link control card).

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are further amended to recite a first RAID rank comprising a first array of disk drives, a second RAID rank comprising a second array of disk drives, a communication loop comprising a second communication link control card wherein the communication loop interconnects the first RAID rank and the second RAID rank. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 4 at Line 20 through Page 5 at Line 7, and in FIG. 2 at elements 220 (first RAID rank), 230 (second RAID rank), 205 communication loop, and 250 (communication loop control card).

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are further amended to recite a communication link comprising a passive transponder disposed adjacent an end wherein the passive transponder comprises a memory comprising information. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 5 at Lines 8-16, and in FIG. 3 at elements 280 (communication link), 320 (end portion of communication link 280), and 340 (passive transponder).

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are further amended to recite reading information from the memory by either the first communication link control card or by the second communication link control card. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 11 at Lines 1-6, in FIG. 5 at step 520, and in claim 26 as originally filed.

No new matter has been entered. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

FIG. 2 stand objected to because elements 242, 244, 252, and 254 are not described in the disclosure. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Page 13 at Line 21 wherein elements 242 and 252 are described as computer useable media, and to Page 14 at Lines 3-4 wherein elements 244 and 254 are described as computer program products.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, and 20-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over P.B. Gilliland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,554,492), in view of Phillips hitag1 stick transponder ("hitag").

Claims 3, 11, and 19, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over P.B. Gilliland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,554,492), in view of Phillips hitag1 stick transponder ("hitag") and Cecchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,626).

Neither Gilliland nor hitag teach an information storage and retrieval system comprising a device adapter comprising a first communication link control card in combination with a first RAID rank comprising a first array of disk drives, a second RAID rank comprising a second array of disk drives, a communication loop comprising a second communication link control card wherein the communication loop interconnects the first RAID rank and the second RAID rank, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein. In addition, neither Gilliland nor hitag teach reading information from the memory by either the first communication link control card or by the second communication link control card, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein.

Cecchi et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Gilliland and hitag. Neither Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., singly or in combination, teach an information storage and retrieval system comprising a device adapter comprising a first communication link control card in combination with a first RAID rank comprising a first array of disk drives, a second RAID rank comprising a second array of disk drives, a communication loop comprising a second communication link control card wherein the communication loop interconnects the first RAID rank and the second RAID rank, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein. In addition, neither Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., singly or in combination, teach reading information from the memory by either the first communication link control card or by the second communication link control card, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein.

Claims 2-8, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8, as amended herein, are patentable over Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 10-16, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 9, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." "If

an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-16, as amended herein, are patentable over Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 18-24, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 17, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-24, as amended herein, are patentable over Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 26-30, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 25, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-30, as amended herein, are patentable over Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Having dealt with all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections of the claims, Applicants submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and an allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies

or additional fees are payable, please charge them, or credit an overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 170055.

Respectfully submitted,

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